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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : இப்போது ரூபாயுடைய மதிப்பு குறைந்திருப்பதால் அந்த வரம்பை உயர்த்துவதற்கு சர்க்காரிடம் ஏதாவது திட்டம் இருக்கிறதா ?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : உயர்த்துவது பற்றி அரசாங்கம் 1960 ஜூன் மாதத்தில் பரிசீலனை செய்தது. இப்போது உயர்த்துவதற்கு இல்லை என்று முடிவு செய்திருக்கிறது.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : கல்லூரிப் படிப்புக்காவது அந்த வரையறையை உயர்த்துவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : நான் முன்பு சொன்ன பதிலே தான். இப்போது உயர்த்துவதற்கு இல்லை என்றுதான் அரசாங்கம் முடிவுக்கு வந்திருக்கிறது.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்துவதினால் சில பிள்ளைகளுக்கு சலுகைகள் குறைந்துவிட்டது என்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : அந்த வரம்புக்கு உட்பட்ட ஊதியம் கூடிவருவதனால் ஒரு சமயம் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கலாம்.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is not the income limit the same for the other backward communities also?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : அதேமாதிரிதான் அவர்களுக்கும்.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated 26th January 1961 from the Governor of Madras :—

"I have received with great satisfaction your resolution of thanks for the Address with which I opend the present session of the Legislature." 3-20 p.m.

(2) MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have also to announce to the House that I have received message from the Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the following Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 28th January 1961 and signed by him, for the concurrence of the Council :—

(1) The Evacuee Interest (Separation) Madras Supplementary Bill, 1961 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1961).

(2) The Madras State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (L.A. Bill No. 26 of 1960).

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I have further to announce to the House that I have received a message from the Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1961) as passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 28th January 1961 and signed by him for the recommendations of the Council. The Hon. Speaker has certified that the Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of Article 199 of the Constitution of India.

III. CALLING ATTENTION TO FALL IN PRICES OF "BLEEDING MADRAS".

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, I would like to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the fall in prices of exportable handloom cloth variety known as "Bleeding Madras" due to the cancellation of orders by importers in America and the consequent accumulation of heavy stocks with weavers and master weavers and further consequence of unemployment among weavers.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, due to the efforts of the Handloom Export Organization at the Chicago Fair in 1959 there was a phenomenal increase in the demand for the Handloom Fabric Bleeding Madras or India Madras. The Handloom Export Organization booked orders for substantial quantities. Subsequently, certain private merchants were also able to secure heavy orders from American firms. This large-scale demand produced a steep and unprecedented rise in the market price for this fabric, the prices spiralling from Rs. 1·75 per yard in June 1959 to as much as Rs. 3·20 per yard in October 1959. The high prices tempted weavers who were producing Madras Handkerchiefs and lunghis to switch over to Bleeding Madras. Private exporters in their anxiety to meet the demand sent out inferior cloth of poor construction, faulty design and improper dyeing. There was increasing consumer resistance in the United States of America produced by the decline in the quality of cloth exported. The American importers cancelled some of the large orders. These developments brought about a steep fall in price in December 1959. Since then, there has been accumulation of stocks of Bleeding Madras which has caused considerable hardship to the weavers. The stagnant stocks are estimated to be about 16 lakhs of yards.

The Government were anxious that some assistance should be afforded to relieve the suffering of weavers. In July 1960 they sanctioned a loan of Rs. 5 lakhs to the Madras Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society for advancing to weavers and master weavers up to 50 per cent of the value of stocks of Bleeding Madras pledged with the society. The Government also agreed to subsidise 50 per cent of the cost of staff employed in the working of the scheme of advances. The Government have since deferred the scheme as the Government of India have under consideration the question of giving relief to the weavers to enable them to dispose of the accumulated stocks.